

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

71. (Currently amended) A goods dealing apparatus for buying and selling goods by pre-engagement connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, comprising:

storage means for storing selling information and buying information for goods which lose or decrease in value over time, which are received from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices;

first dealing processing means for executing a first sale by pre-engagement, ~~when said buying information received from said buyer's terminal devices and stored in said storage means is transmitted to said seller's terminal devices and subscription information for said transmitted buying information is received from said seller's terminal devices~~ when plural pieces of subscription information from said seller's terminal devices for said buying information which is received from said buyer's terminal devices and stored in said storage means and transmitted to said seller's terminal devices are received and one among the received plural pieces of subscription information is selected by said buyer's terminal devices, based on said buying information and said selected one piece of subscription information;

second dealing processing means for executing a second sale by pre-engagement, ~~when said selling information received from said seller's terminal devices and stored in said storage means is transmitted to said buyer's terminal devices, and buying registration information for said transmitted selling information is received from said buyer's terminal devices~~ when plural pieces of buying registration information from said buyer's terminal devices for said selling information which is received from said seller's terminal devices and stored in said storage means and transmitted to said buyer's terminal devices are received and one among the received plural pieces of buying registration information is selected by said seller's terminal devices, based on said selling information and said selected one piece of buying registration information; and

third dealing processing means for executing a third sale by pre-engagement, when buying conditions of said buying information received from said buyer's terminal devices and stored in said storage means and selling conditions of said selling information received from said seller's terminal devices and stored in said storage means agree with each other.

72. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 71, further comprising:

copying processing means for using selling information of goods which are left unsold among said selling information output from said seller's terminal devices for goods to be processed through said third dealing processing means, after executing processing of the first sale by pre-engagement by said first dealing processing means.

73. (Previously presented) The goods dealing apparatus according to claim 71, wherein said third dealing processing means determines a processing order of the selling information based on conditions of a selling information processing order to determine the processing order for plural pieces of selling information, and according to the determined processing order of the selling information, determines a processing order of the buying information based on conditions of a buying information processing order to determine processing order for plural pieces of buying information corresponding to each piece of selling information, thereby executes deal processing one by one.

74. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 71, further comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting information of agreements between conditions of goods included in the buying information received from said buyer's terminal devices and conditions of goods included in the selling information received from said seller's terminal devices, as information used for displaying by list on the same screen, to said buyer's terminal devices and/or said seller's terminal devices.

75. (Currently amended) ~~A goods dealing apparatus for buying and selling goods by pre-engagement connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, comprising:~~

~~storage means for storing selling information and buying information for dealing goods which lose or decrease in value over time, which are received from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices; The apparatus according to claim 71, further comprising:~~

first clustering means for clustering pieces of selling information according to goods attributes included in said selling information, and

second clustering means for clustering pieces of buying information according to goods attributes included in said buying information, and

wherein said third dealing processing means for searching searches selling information and buying information satisfying goods attributes with each other, sequentially from clustered pieces of selling information and clustered pieces of buying information having great numbers of conditions for clustering by said first and second clustering means, and ~~executing~~ executes a sale based on the selling information and the buying information satisfying goods attributes with each other, by using each piece of selling information and each piece of buying information, included in the clustered pieces of selling information by said first and second clustering means, respectively, which are clustered with same goods attributes.

76. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 75, wherein cluster level is divided into plural levels in accordance with the number of conditions for determining clusters by said first clustering means and said second clustering means; and

wherein said third dealing processing means executes a bargain between the buying information cluster formed by said first clustering means and the selling information cluster formed by said second clustering means having a level corresponding to a level of the buying information cluster.

77. (Currently amended) A goods dealing apparatus for buying and selling goods by pre-engagement connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, the apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing selling information and buying information for dealing goods which lose or decrease in value over time, which are received from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices;

arrival information obtaining means for obtaining arrival information about said goods,

pre-confirmation dealing processing means for executing first cross deal processing by pre-engagement in which, according to said selling information and buying information which are received before said arrival information obtaining means obtains said arrival information and stored in said storage means, when said buying information is transmitted to said seller's terminal devices and one among plural pieces of subscription information from said seller's

~~terminal devices~~ for said transmitted buying information ~~is received from said seller's terminal devices~~ is selected by said buyer's terminal devices, a cross deal by pre-engagement is concluded based on said buying information and said selected one piece of subscription information, and/or for executing second cross deal processing by pre-engagement in which, when said selling information is transmitted to said buyer's terminal devices and one among plural pieces of buying registration information ~~from said buyer's terminal devices~~ is selected by said seller's terminal devices for said transmitted selling information ~~is received from said buyer's terminal devices~~, a cross deal by pre-engagement is concluded based on said selling information and said selected one piece of buying registration information; and

post-confirmation dealing processing means for executing third cross deal processing by pre-engagement in which, according to selling information for goods unprocessed by pre-confirmation dealing processing means among said selling information for goods stored in said storage means or selling information for goods received from seller's terminal devices after said arrival information obtaining means obtains said arrival information and stored in said storage means, and buying information for goods unprocessed by pre-confirmation dealing processing means among said buying information for goods stored in said storage means or buying information for goods received from buyer's terminal devices after said arrival information obtaining means obtains said arrival information and stored in said storage means, when said selling information for goods is transmitted to buyer's terminal devices and buying registration information for said transmitted selling information is received from said buyer's terminal devices, a cross deal by pre-engagement is concluded based on said selling information and said buying registration information, and/or for executing a cross deal processing in which a conclusion is made with agreement between said buying information and selling information for goods received before and/or after said arrival information obtaining means obtains said arrival information and stored in said storage means.

78. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 77,

wherein said arrival information includes arrival quantity of said goods, and wherein said post-confirmation dealing processing means executes the deal processing by specifying the difference between a quantity of the goods concluded by said pre-confirmation dealing processing means and said arrival quantity as unprocessed number of sales of goods.

79. (Currently amended) A goods dealing apparatus for buying and selling goods by pre-engagement connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, the apparatus comprising:

first storage means for storing selling information and addresses of sellers received from said plural seller's terminal devices and buying information and addresses of buyers received from said plural buyer's terminal devices;

second storage means for storing information on distribution costs between two points in accordance with a quantity of shipment; and

transmitting means for, in response to a request for obtaining selling information received from said buyer's terminal devices,

obtaining plural pieces of selling information, plural addresses of sellers and plural addresses of buyers from said first storage means, and obtaining plural pieces of information on distribution costs from said second storage means,

calculating ~~the total amounts~~ total buying costs including distribution costs corresponding to plural pieces of selling information based on said plural pieces of selling information obtained from said first storage means and said plural pieces of information on distribution costs obtained from said second storage means, and then transmitting the calculated total amounts to said buyer's terminal devices.

80. (Currently amended) A goods dealing apparatus for buying and selling goods by pre-engagement connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, comprising:

storage means for storing selling information and buying information for goods which lose or decrease in value over time, which are received from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices;

first dealing processing means for executing a first sale by pre-engagement, ~~when said buying information received from said buyer's terminal devices and stored in said storage means is transmitted to said seller's terminal devices and subscription information for said transmitted buying information is received from said seller's terminal devices~~ when plural pieces of subscription information from said seller's terminal devices for said buying information which is

received from said buyer's terminal devices and stored in said storage means and transmitted to said seller's terminal devices are received and one among the received plural pieces of subscription information is selected by said buyer's terminal devices, based on said buying information and said selected one piece of subscription information;

second dealing processing means for executing a second sale by pre-engagement, ~~when said selling information received from said seller's terminal devices and stored in said storage means is transmitted to said buyer's terminal devices, and buying registration information for said transmitted selling information is received from said buyer's terminal devices~~ when plural pieces of buying registration information from said buyer's terminal devices for said selling information which is received from said seller's terminal devices and stored in said storage means and transmitted to said buyer's terminal devices are received and one among the received plural pieces of buying registration information is selected by said seller's terminal devices, based on said selling information and said selected one piece of buying registration information; and

third dealing processing means for executing a third sale by pre-engagement, when buying conditions of said buying information received from said buyer's terminal devices and stored in said storage means and selling conditions of said selling information received from said seller's terminal devices and stored in said storage means agree with each other.

81. *(Currently Amended)* A goods dealing system for buying and selling goods by pre-engagement connected to plural seller's terminal devices, plural buyer's terminal devices, and at least a market management device through a computer network, said seller's terminal devices comprising a means for transmitting selling information for goods which lose or decrease in value over time; said buyer's terminal devices comprising a means for transmitting buying information for goods which lose or decrease in value over time; and said market management device, comprising:

storage means for storing said selling information and said buying information for goods which lose or decrease in value over time, which are received from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices;

first clustering means for clustering pieces of selling information according to goods attributes included in said selling information,

second clustering means for clustering pieces of buying information according to goods attributes included in said buying information, and

dealing processing means for searching selling information and buying information satisfying the conditions with each other, sequentially from the cluster having great numbers of conditions for clustering by said first and second clustering means, and collating the selling information and the buying information satisfying the conditions with each other, by using each piece of selling information and each piece of buying information, included in the cluster of selling information and the cluster of buying information, respectively, which are clustered with the same conditions from said clustered pieces of selling information and said clustered pieces of buying information.

82. (Currently amended) A goods dealing apparatus for buying and selling goods by pre-engagement connected to plural seller's terminal devices and plural buyer's terminal devices through a computer network, the apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing selling information and buying information for dealing goods which lose or decrease in value over time, which are received from said plural seller's terminal devices and said plural buyer's terminal devices;

arrival information obtaining means for obtaining arrival information about said goods, pre-confirmation dealing processing means for executing first cross deal processing by pre-engagement in which, according to said selling information and buying information which are received before said arrival information obtaining means obtains said arrival information and stored in said storage means, when said buying information is transmitted to said seller's terminal devices and one among plural pieces of subscription information from said seller's terminal devices for said transmitted buying information ~~is received from said seller's terminal devices~~ is selected by said buyer's terminal devices, a cross deal by pre-engagement is concluded based on said buying information and said selected one piece of subscription information, and/or for executing second cross deal processing by pre-engagement in which, when said selling information is transmitted to said buyer's terminal devices and one among plural pieces of buying registration information from said buyer's terminal devices ~~is received from said buyer's terminal devices~~

devices, a cross deal by pre-engagement is concluded based on said selling information and said selected one piece of buying registration information; and

post-confirmation dealing processing means for executing third cross deal processing by pre-engagement in which, according to selling information for goods unprocessed by pre-confirmation dealing processing means among said selling information for goods stored in said storage means or selling information for goods received from seller's terminal devices after said arrival information obtaining means obtains said arrival information and stored in said storage means, and buying information for goods unprocessed by pre-confirmation dealing processing means among said buying information for goods stored in said storage means or buying information for goods received from buyer's terminal devices after said arrival information obtaining means obtains said arrival information and stored in said storage means, when said selling information for goods is transmitted to buyer's terminal devices and buying registration information for said transmitted selling information is received from said buyer's terminal devices, a cross deal by pre-engagement is concluded based on said selling information and said buying registration information, and/or for executing a cross deal processing in which a conclusion is made with agreement between said buying information and selling information for goods received before and/or after said arrival information obtaining means obtains said arrival information and stored in said storage means.

83. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium that stores a computer program which, when executed, causes a computer to carry out functions associated with the storage means, the second dealing processing means, and the third dealing processing means of claim 71.

84. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium that stores a computer program which, when executed, causes a computer to carry out functions associated with the storage means, the first clustering means, the second clustering means, and the dealing processing means of claim 75.

85. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium that stores a computer program which, when executed, causes a computer to carry out functions associated with the storage means, the arrival information obtaining means,

the pre-confirmation dealing processing means, and the post-confirmation dealing processing means of claim 77.

86. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium that stores a computer program which, when executed, causes a computer to carry out functions associated with the first storage means, the second storage means, and the transmitting means of claim 79.

87. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium that stores a computer program which, when executed, causes a computer to carry out functions associated with the storage means, the first dealing processing means, and the second dealing processing means of claim 80.

88. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium that stores a computer program which, when executed, causes a computer to carry out functions associated with the storage means, the first clustering means, the second clustering means, and the dealing processing means of claim 81.

89. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium that stores a computer program which, when executed, causes a computer to carry out functions associated with the storage means, the arrival information obtaining means, the pre-confirmation dealing processing means, and the post-confirmation dealing processing means of claim 82.